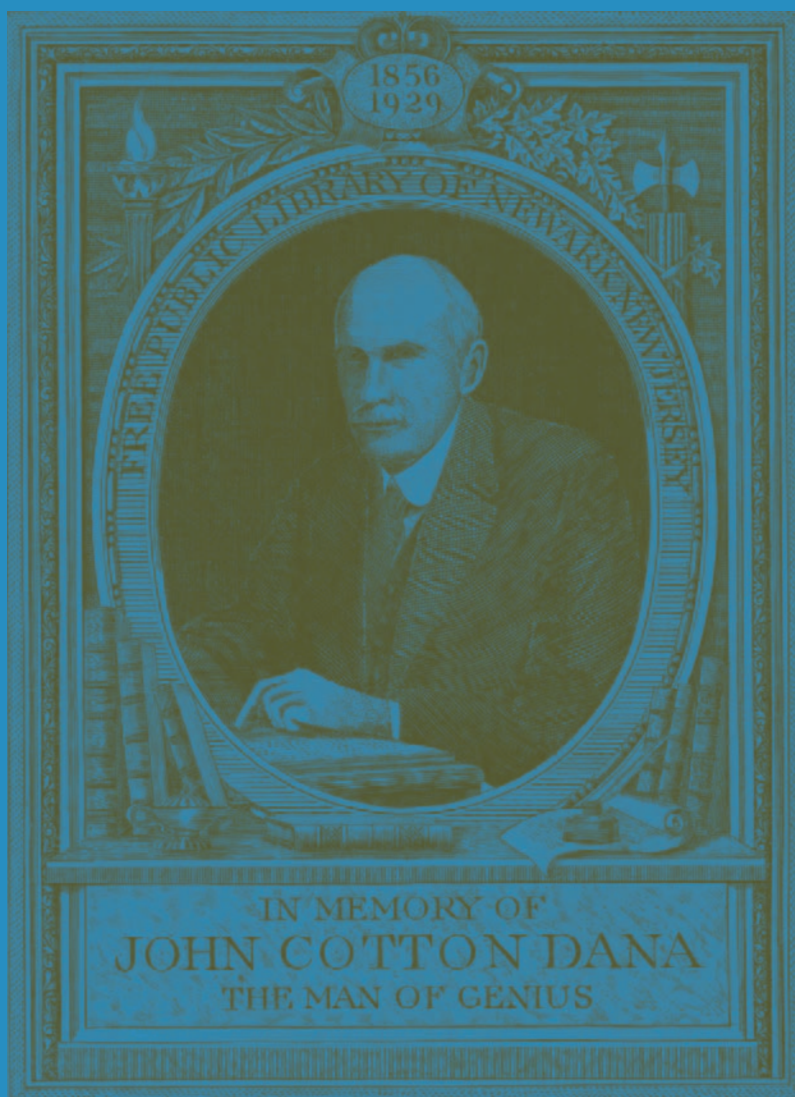


A John Cotton Dana
Library



The Newark Public Library

A John Cotton Dana Library

“**K**eep in mind that we’re a John Cotton Dana library.” With this reminder, Clement Price, senior Newark Public Library trustee and a distinguished historian at Rutgers Newark, has often encouraged his fellow trustees to reach a decision to serve the citizens of Newark more imaginatively.

The 150th anniversary of John Cotton Dana’s birth in 1856 provides an opportunity to look back at Dana’s career as “Newark’s First Citizen” and perhaps America’s most influential public librarian. What does it mean to be a John Cotton Dana library? What aspects of his legacy are so entwined in the institutional DNA of The Newark Public Library that when we respect them our chances of success in new endeavors are greatly increased, and when we ignore them the odds for disappointment multiply? How did Dana engage the people of Newark, leaders and common citizens alike, in a common cause led by the Library?

IT IS PERHAPS SURPRISING THAT Dana's legacy is still so profound. After all, he died 77 years ago; he began his tenure as Director of The Newark Public Library more than 100 years ago, and it's been nearly a century since he founded the Newark Museum. He was born just 80 years after the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed in Philadelphia, and as a youth he would certainly have known individuals who personally recalled George Washington's presidency. He came of age in Vermont as the fierce battles of the Civil War were just ebbing into memory.

Yet his passionate advocacy for using public libraries to serve all people, regardless of class, education, age, or vocation, can be seen as an effort to fulfill the long-delayed promises of the Declaration of Independence and to redeem the internecine suffering of the Civil War. He helped to make America what it had promised to be, and his legacy reminds us how much work remains to be done. His own words make the case:

THE LIBRARY A LEVELLER

Many still do not see how unique a thing a public library is. It is the most democratic, universal institution ever devised. It is by all, for all, to be used as each and every one may choose. It draws no line of politics, wealth,

birth, or education. All can learn here, without rules or teachers, save as they make their own rules and choose their own teachers. A collection of good books, and people to use them—what a university is this! Nothing that is human is foreign to it.¹ JCD



Dana's New England roots went very deep. He was directly descended from John Cotton, the Cambridge-educated Congregational theologian and leader of the 17th century Massachusetts Bay Colony. Dana was not a church-goer and in time declared himself an agnostic, but he found powerful ways to express through secular institutions the traditional New England Congregational emphasis on education, self-determination, and involvement in social issues. Dana grew up in Woodstock, Vermont and often returned there as an adult. He received a thorough classical education, earning his degree at Dartmouth College, and then studied for the bar back in Woodstock.

At the age of 25, like so many other young men of his time and education, he took off for the American West. Dana spent eight restless years seeking his true purpose in life. He was a land surveyor for awhile in Colorado, returned to the East Coast where he was admitted to the bar in New York, and then made his way back to Colorado (and to civil engineering).

In 1889, at the age of 33, Dana found his calling. He had complained to the

trustees of the Denver Public Library about how closed and uninviting the library was, and they decided to give him the job of fixing it.

Over the next nine years, Dana started his public library revolution.

ACTING ON HIS BELIEF THAT ALL books should be accessible to the public, he was one of the first librarians to open the book stacks to the public. No longer would a citizen have to request books from a librarian sitting behind an enclosure, like a bank teller—a librarian who might then try to steer the citizen’s interest in a different direction. Dana made it easy for all citizens to get library cards. And, convinced that children should be welcomed not excluded, he created the nation’s first children’s room in a library.

He quickly became a figure of national importance, serving as president of the American Library Association in 1895–96. When Springfield, Massachusetts recruited him in 1897 to head their City Library, it was said he brought to that city “the breezy ideas of the West, which he combined with the traditional practicality of New England.” Four years later, after Frank P. Hill left Newark to become

head of the Brooklyn Public Library, Dana was persuaded to move to Newark. He served as Director of The Newark Public Library from 1902 until his death in 1929, and founded the Newark Museum Association in 1909.

Richard Jenkinson, a Newark businessman and long-time Library trustee, led the effort to recruit Dana. He and two other trustees traveled to Springfield to offer him the position and make the case for Newark. Jenkinson later recalled Dana’s extraordinary impact in Newark:

[Dana] came, looked us over, and finally concluded to come to Newark. What he did, in little more than a quarter of a century was an unbroken series of achievements. He made friends rapidly. He was a fluent speaker and an eloquent one. He attracted the common people by his plain talk and the privileged by his knowledge of all the things that go to make this world a better place to live in.

He increased the efficiency of the Newark Library 600%. He established the first branch library in Newark and the number grew to eight. He made the Newark Public Library the foremost Free Public Library in the country. He removed the bars that prevented easy access to every part of the institution by the users.... His mind worked fast. He always had a new vision of something else that he might do, and he finally founded the Newark Museum.

Newark is showing the benefit of Mr. Dana's work. Readers have increased 100% faster than the population. The ambition of Mr. Dana to make it easy for children to learn to read has been realized in our children's rooms in the Main Library and all of its branches.

Perhaps, after the Museum, the greatest achievement of Mr. Dana was the establishment of the Business Branch. Other cities stood by and looked for failure or success. Most predicted failure. But the branch grew. It is used by all the business men of the city, county and neighboring regions of the state, and now it supplies information for people of other states as well.²

Six years after Dana's death, over 1,000 citizens gathered at the Museum to observe "John Cotton Dana Day." According to the report in the New York Times, Henry W. Kent, secretary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and a close friend of Dana's, captured the spirit of the occasion by describing him as "a militant librarian" who had brought the people into libraries.

In 1956, a century after Dana's birth, Newark again celebrated the man and his legacy. An 87-member Citizens' Committee organized a major event, featuring addresses by the Chief Justice of New Jersey and the Librarian of Congress. Individuals then living (including the Chief Justice) could still

personally reflect on Dana's leadership and the power of his librarianship.

Now, 150 years after his birth, we can no longer look to personal memories to understand Dana's impact and to reflect on just what it is that characterizes "a John Cotton Dana library". We need to look instead to his writings.

Dana wrote urgently and prolifically. Articles and essays tumbled from his pen. He corresponded widely, and he was quick to write to the editors of Newark and New York newspapers on the cultural issues of his day. He frequently spoke at library conventions, and his remarks commanded attention—as witnessed by the frequent contemporary reports in the New York Times.

Dana also engaged in an extended dialogue with Newarkers about reading, libraries, and civic progress. Sometimes his style is staccato and to the point, like advertising copy; other times he writes in great, rolling sentences. From Dana's writings we can discern (and illustrate) the elements that characterize "a John Cotton Dana library". These characteristics may seem commonplace today (even if too often noted by their absence), but they were revolutionary in Dana's day. What follows draws on Dana's quarter-century-long dialogue with Newarkers; all of these extracts from his writings come from library publications directed to Newarkers.

A library should serve its public, and all the communities that make up that public.

DANA BELIEVED THAT LIBRARIES are owned by the public and exist to serve the public. If the public includes immigrants who don't speak English, then collections of books in their native languages should be formed. Children are members of the public, and libraries should invite them in. Libraries should serve the hourly worker and the business owner, as much as or more than the well-educated professional. What works for one city may not be right for another city, so libraries must develop an intimate understanding of their community.

*The public library must be fitted to public needs. It must suit its community. It must do the maximum of work at the minimum of expense. It must be open to its public; it must attract its public; it must please its public; all to the end that it may educate its public.*³ JCD



A library should promote reading in all its forms.

IN HIS DIALOGUE WITH NEWARKERS, Dana focused as much on encouraging reading as on any other topic. He defined reading broadly, and he was quick to challenge the freighted ideas

that reading should only be serious, or focus on “Great Books,” or be the domain of some well-educated elite. This was not because Dana himself was not extraordinarily well-read. Rather, it was because of his passionate belief in the democratic ideal of self-education and his determination to remove any real or perceived barriers to reading.

WHY READ BOOKS?

*There are plenty of good reasons. Also there are good reasons for reading magazines, and pamphlets, and parts of books. In fact the greatest readers rarely read a book through—unless it's a novel. They don't read for the sake of adding a title to the list of books they have read; they read to see what the book says, and in most cases they find out what it says before they have gone much beyond the preface and the table of contents. And often they need do little more than look at a book to discover that they have no interest in what it says, and drop it at once.*⁴ JCD



[F]or every man the book of power is the book that, first, gives him pleasure; next, informs him; next sets him to thinking; and next, sets him to doing.

The book he reads must please him; it must not merely satisfy his hypocritical desire to be pleased with that particular book. Books are well read by those who like to read them, not by those who feel they ought

*to read them; just as good deeds are well done by those who like to do them, not by those who fear not to do them or by those who hope by doing them to acquire merit.*⁵ JCD



HOW TO READ BOOKS

*The way to read books is to read them. The secret is for most people in the quantity than the quality. Keep on reading: read what you like; try what you think you don't like; read as widely as your tastes permit—and you will soon find you Know How to Read.*⁶ JCD



A library should provide access to information and facts, not just those books that represent culture.

DANA DEFINED THE PURVIEW OF libraries to cover “print” not just “books”, “facts” not just “culture”. That led him in Newark to organize collections of pamphlets and brochures on a wide range of topics, and to solicit copies of industrial manuals from local businesses. One of his proudest achievements in Newark was the creation of a “Business Branch” dedicated to meeting the information needs of local businesses, first in the basement of Bamberger’s department store, and later in a purpose-built building in the center of Newark’s business district.

Technology has since provided new ways for businesses to access the information they need, but one suspects Dana would be at the forefront of figuring out how to use the internet to facilitate library services—how to help all library users understand that tracking down information sometimes means going well beyond the first screen of a Google search.

The old library idea was “Culture.” It was a good idea, and still is, and it has been my pleasure often to support it. But modern conditions of production and of international competition have brought out this additional library idea—which is new if only in the insistence of its demand for attention—the idea, that is, of finding, stating, and presenting, to those who need it and can use it for their own and for the general welfare, “Information”.

*[I]n so doing, [librarians] have added to their work as ‘apostles and promoters of culture for a few’, the work of promoting production and distribution for the many.*⁷ JCD



A library should contribute to the economic vitality of a city.

DANA WORKED HARD TO MAKE The Newark Public Library a center of civic life, and he became a key member of Newark’s Planning Commission during the height of the City Beautiful

movement. He launched a library newsletter known as *The Newarker* to update citizens about information available at the library about municipal developments and services.

He believed that not only a library's books but also its buildings belonged to the public. Ten years after he arrived in Newark, and twelve years after the Main Library building had opened, Dana commented on the impact of Newark's investment in its library, including its use for community development:

[The library's rooms] were thrown open to Newark citizens to whom they belonged. Out of the library's income were furnished heat, light and care. They were used by many scores of organizations for hundreds of meetings, counting thousands in attendance. There were found here daily through the winter gatherings of parents, school teachers, business men, promoters of charitable enterprises and of movements for civic improvement and many other groups, all brought together to broaden and enliven themselves to help make their fellow citizens wiser and happier.

What the influence has been on the community of the thousands of meetings that have been held in the library building in the past ten years for civic helpfulness, education and philanthropy, no one can

*tell. But can not one safely say that not one but scores of movements for the betterment of the community, if not born of the public's hospitality, expressed through its library, ...have at least been fostered and encouraged through the opportunity that the library gave and the influences it furnished.*⁸ JCD



Dana also considered libraries to be one of the engines of economic development, through their encouragement of reading and the “spread of intelligence”. He argued that there is a multiplier effect from library services and improved education.

Progress increases as the square of the number of readers. Four readers and four readers make eight readers, but eight readers progress four times as rapidly as four readers.

The more readers there are in a country or a city, the better place it is to live in, to do business in....

The town that has a good healthy well-stocked library, with a growing number of readers is a good town to locate in, to do business in. It is a good place for the manufacturer. It will provide him with an intelligent class of workmen, and is likely to see that he is allowed to do business without molestation. It will provide that intelligent appreciation of the goods he manufactures which leads to increased consumption.

Books and libraries have spread intelligence. The spread of intelligence has multiplied books and libraries. The action and reaction produce a perpetual motion—forward.

*Libraries have widened their usefulness, not only by furnishing books to read, but also by creating readers for their books. A library without readers is not a library but only a collection of books. A library whose use does not increase more rapidly than its books is growing one-sided.*⁹ JCD



A library should continually reinvent itself in order to best serve the public.

UNLIKE MOST PEOPLE, DANA SEEMS to have become more open to change the older he got. As the New York Times commented in its obituary, Dana moved in his 60s from being a “noted librarian” to one known for his “radical” views on libraries and museums. And, as pointed out earlier, he was tagged after his death as a “militant librarian”. Much of this perceived militancy came from his insistence that people have the freedom to develop their own tastes and interests, and that libraries should change with the times. But change did not mean lowering the quality of

service or “dumbing down” the collections—it meant continually finding creative ways of reaching more people and providing better services.

*The legitimate field of work of a city’s public library is, that field which the temper of that city may at any given time permit it, or encourage it, or compel it to occupy. As that temper changes, the field will change accordingly; narrowing and widening and using broad or intensive cultivation as days pass and knowledge, thoughts and feelings vary. The field actually occupied by a library on any given day can be roughly described—for that day. The field that it will occupy tomorrow, and the field that it ought to occupy tomorrow—the latter being what might be called its legitimate field—neither of these may be delimited.*¹⁰ JCD



In Dana’s lifetime, some libraries went from bold, new expressions of civic life to rather comfortable, bureaucratic institutions. Dana had no patience for this condition, and he worked hard to shake up libraries and his profession, and to keep them forward-looking.

The plain fact is that times change and institutions should change with them. Institutions tend, by their very nature, to be static. This is particularly true of those maintained by public funds. Libraries, which are institutions maintained by

*taxes, have an added impulse toward the static or conservative method of life, in that they are concerned with keeping record of the past. Economic changes, even those which profoundly modify the production and the distribution of the very material itself which libraries are erected to handle and control—to wit, print—are not easily seen, or heeded or used as arguments for the study and revision of their old and established ways.*¹¹ JCD



A library should be an important source of civic pride.

DANA POURED HIMSELF INTO THE Newark Public Library and (later) the Newark Museum. He moved comfortably and persuasively in the corridors of civic and business power, and he earned respect from people in all walks of life. His focus was not on self-promotion but on the Library as an institution, and he took enormous satisfaction when that institution helped to advance Newark's reputation and showed Newark a strong return on its investment.

YES, THE LIBRARY INTERESTS PEOPLE
Newark's library is not quite like any other. Some go so far as to say it is better than any other. At any rate, the world thinks it interesting. Inquiries come to it by mail from all parts of the world and from all parts of the world come people to

*inspect it. It is proud of this fact, not because it proves the library's excellence, but because it shows that Newark's library investment, in addition to everything thing else it has done, brings to its city a repute for knowing how to use the brains of others as well as its own.*¹² JCD



*The library is the one institution which can serve as a center of pleasure and learning for all the city. To its service all can give their sympathy and aid without restraint of politics or creed, and without thought of difference in station or in culture. Recreation, good cheer, research, business, trade, government, social life, conduct, religion, all of those in every aspect can turn to books for help.*¹³ JCD



A library must constantly make its case and engage in an ongoing dialogue with its public.

DANA IS PERHAPS BEST KNOWN FOR his insistence that libraries must be advocates for their value to their communities. He recognized that advertising is the mother of use. To this day, the American Library Association's public relations award, considered one of its most important and prestigious awards, is called the John Cotton Dana Award.

*If a library has or is a good thing for the community, let it be so said, early, late, and often, in large plain type. So doing shall the library's books enter, before too old to be of service, into that state of utter worn-out-ness which is the only known book heaven.*¹⁴ JCD



As we celebrate John Cotton Dana during the 150th anniversary of his birth, we are reminded by Dana himself just how restless, exciting, and engaged a public library should be. There is little question that Dana expected The Newark

Public Library to change and grow over the decades—and to continue to set new standards for what a “democratic, universal institution” can achieve by serving all without regard to “politics, wealth, birth, or education.” It remains a radical vision and an enduring challenge to the staff and trustees as we work to make sure The Newark Public Library remains worthy of being called “a John Cotton Dana library”.

Timothy J. Crist

Trustee, The Newark Public Library

Footnotes

1. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 11, September 1912, p. 184.
2. The Library, Volume 111, Number 6, July–August 1929, pp. 70–71.
3. The Library, Volume 111, Number 6, July–August 1929, p. 70.
4. The Library, Volume 11, Number 4, April 1926, p. 59.
5. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 12, October 1912, p. 196.
6. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 5, March 1912, p. 81.
7. The Library, Volume 11, Number 1, June 1925, p. 5.
8. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 10, August 1912, p. 164.
9. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 1, November 1911, p. 5.
10. The Library, Volume 111, Number 6, July–August 1929, p. 74.
11. The Library, Volume 11, Number 1, June 1925, p. 7.
12. The Newarker, Volume 1, Number 10, August 1912, p. 160.
13. The Library, Volume 111, Number 9, February 1930, p. 105.
14. The Library, Volume 111, Number 6, July–August 1929, p. 72.

John Cotton Dana's Bookplates

Dana used everything at his disposal to convey the importance of reading and the special role of libraries in enabling self-education. No opportunity was missed; no format was too mundane—not even bookplates. With bookplates, Dana grasped the opportunity to communicate with citizens one-on-one at that anticipatory, reflective moment when a reader first opens a book borrowed from the library. By 1925 he had created a series of bookplates, printed on the library's own press, which described “the use of print, the mission of books or the appeal of some particular branch of learning.”

To this day, one of the delights of using The Newark Public Library's collection is coming across these bookplates in older volumes. We have collected Dana's bookplates (which some have called “miniature broadsides”) in this pamphlet to bring them to a new audience. Most date from 1925; a couple were produced earlier. The “Rules about Reading” bookplate was evidently printed after his death.

TO NEWARK READERS

- 1 Reading pays.
- 2 Wise reading pays best.
- 3 Wise reading is guided reading of good things.
- 4 Libraries are established to collect good reading and guide in its use.
- 5 This Library of yours has many useful Guides and Lists and Study Courses, and Books that tell about Books on every subject,—what are the best and why. We wish these Guide Books to Reading were more used.

The Free Public Library
Newark, New Jersey

LEARN HOW TO LEARN

✧ The most valuable knowledge is knowledge that leads to all knowledge. You can't learn everything, so be wise and learn how to learn what you need to learn. ✧ All knowledge is in print, or will be to-morrow. To know how to find in books and journals just the information you need—that is to hold the eel of wisdom by the tail.

Your Newark Library has much that is helpful on the art of learning how to learn.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
Newark, N. J.

Books in the Free Public Library

THEY belong to the citizens of Newark. The more they are used intelligently, the better for the city. If you find any of them helpful to you, if they make your hours of leisure more agreeable, your work more efficient, your enterprise more profitable and your city more enjoyable, please tell others of the fact, and thus aid in making these books more useful still.

Do what you can to prevent rough handling, mutilation and theft among these books. A few persons, unhappily, are ready to do harm to such instruments of education and progress and pleasure as our fellow citizens provide in these books.

The Free Public Library
Newark, New Jersey

What Ought a Business Man to Read?

1. Several newspapers; thus he studies history while it is being made.
2. Several newspapers; thus he learns how business is going.
3. Several newspapers; thus he learns his own town.
4. The Saturday Evening Post; thus he gets good stories, novels and a view of business, law, politics and government different from that which most of the newspapers give him.
5. The Literary Digest; thus he gets both sides of the day's questions, and explores the world.
6. The best novels as they appear; (the best are the ones he most enjoys).
7. A good, small book on something he is interested in, by a Man who Knows. Articles in the world's great magazines can take the place of small books.
8. The best journals of his own calling.
9. Everything else.

J. C. D.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEWARK NEW JERSEY

A GOOD TOOL: A BOOK WISELY READ

To the lawyer, the physician, the preacher, the engineer, the manufacturer, the manager, the salesman, the fireman, the mason, the painter, to these and to the men of all other callings this truth applies:- This is the day in which print is a tool ready for all men's hands; those who grasp it and use it do the most, do it the best, most wisely apply their talents, and, if those talents permit, win thereby to greatness.

J. C. D.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEWARK, N. J.

1925

WHICH ARE THE BEST BOOKS FOR ME?

You speak of choosing your friends. You mean that as you meet new people and come to know them you naturally pick out those who appeal to you, who don't bore you, who help you to pass a pleasant evening now and then, who have something new to say, who help you to see things differently and make life more entertaining. You don't pick these friends on sight, and you don't select them on somebody's recommendation. You get to know them first and then hold to them if you like them.

Find your own books in the same way.

J. C. D.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, NEWARK, N. J.

1925

READING MAKES YOU MORE ALIVE

As in the field of life's combat, knowledge and power are gained by reading, so, in the field of your own intimate life, by this same process of reading are gained fullness of knowledge, variety of interest, multiplicity of experience, and amplitude and depth of emotion. You find it a joy to be alive? You wish to be as intensely as your mind and emotions permit? Then read much and of many things.

J. C. D.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEWARK
NEW JERSEY
1925

EVERYONE SHOULD BUY BOOKS

By that I mean : Every person of intelligence, able to read ordinary print with some ease, will find that the habit of owning books and having them about him will give him more pleasure in the long run than any other habit he can form. Only a few buy and read books, to be sure; but then, only a few get out of life all the pleasure they are capable of getting. So the small number of the bookish does not prove anything except that the wise are always few!

J. C. D.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
NEWARK, N. J.
1925

RUSSIA is a huge country with many millions of many kinds of people, and a troubled history of more than a thousand years. To judge fairly her people you must know them well, and who dares to say that he has learned to know them well?

Your Library has many books on Russia. Four good ones are:

Russia, by D. Mackenzie Wallace. 1905

The Mainsprings of Russia, by Maurice Baring. 1914

The Village: Russian Impressions, by Ernest Poole. 1918

Open Gates to Russia, by Malcolm W. Davis. 1920

The Public Library, Newark, N. J.

OUR FAR-EASTERN FRIENDS

WE MEAN the people of China and Japan: Father Time never set the world a Problem as serious as that of our relations with these people of the Far East. Wise answers to this Problem can come only if We know the East and the East knows Us.

Ask to see Books and Journals on the Far East in your Library; they range from novels of adventure to careful studies by experts.

Newark, N. J.
December, 1920

The Public Library

CREED FOR AMERICANS

I wish to be kind, just, intelligent, diligent and happy, and to persuade others to help me so to be; because I know that in so far as I succeed I shall help my country to be generous, law-abiding, prosperous and progressive; a country in which everyone may find so much pleasure as his own nature permits him to earn and to enjoy.

If my country does wrong, I shall oppose it in that wrong. If any try to injure it, I shall oppose them and if need be I shall fight them.

I believe that we are and should continue united in the task of making everyone each day more nearly equal before our laws, our customs, and our opinions, and in giving to everyone every day greater freedom in thought and speech and action; all to the end that all may work together in harmony and in mutual aid to make this a still more desirable dwelling place for a gentle, intelligent and industrious people.

J. C. D.

The Free Public Library, Newark, N.J.

JOHN COTTON DANA'S
TWELVE FAMOUS RULES
ABOUT READING

- 1 Read
- 2 Read
- 3 Read some more
- 4 Read anything
- 5 Read about everything
- 6 Read enjoyable things
- 7 Read things you yourself enjoy
- 8 Read, and talk about it
- 9 Read very carefully,—some things
- 10 Read on the run, most things
- 11 Don't think about reading, but
- 12 Just read

The Public Library
Newark N. J.

From the Director

A MESSAGE FROM WILMA J. GREY

During 2006 The Newark Public Library proudly celebrated the sesquicentennial of John Cotton Dana's birth in 1856 with an exhibition, commemorative booklets, and several public programs—all affirming Dana's historical importance and highlighting the continuing relevance of his ideas in today's world.

Our celebration of Dana could not have come at a better time. Like most public institutions, we are undergoing a period of introspection and change as we re-cast our services and programs to better meet the needs of 21st century library users. We have been reminded again that the best way for us to honor Dana's legacy is to improve on it.

The Newark Public Library is committed to a renewed vision of what it means to be a public library. We are rededicating our staff, facilities, and collections to serving the citizens of Newark and encouraging them to participate fully in the common life of our city.

Of course, we will continue to promote reading, foster literacy, and offer all the traditional library services that have held true since the days of John Cotton Dana: books of all kinds, robust research materials, and first-rate reference assistance. But we will also use

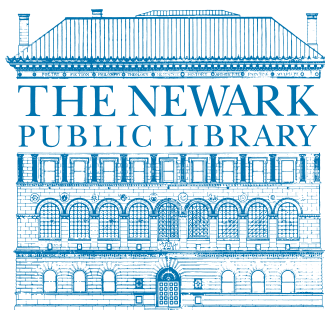
21st century technology to improve our delivery of services, while expanding direct access to information and technology for our users.

We will continue to work toward a newly expanded and renovated Main Library. We will make the library a community center, a gathering place for the exchange of ideas and conversation, and a hub of intellectual life and lifelong learning. We will provide a nurturing environment for families, with imaginative and effective programs focused on our young people—toddlers through teens. We will sponsor educational and entertaining programs that reinforce our role as a vital center for cultural engagement. And, not least, we will preserve and expand our nationally important collections of Newark and New Jersey historical materials, rare books, and works of art on paper.

It has been said that a great city needs a great library. Standing on Dana's shoulders, we will do our part for Newark.

Wilma J. Grey

Director, The Newark Public Library



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